

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14121

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT MILI IT
SUBJ: GOODBYE GADFLY: ACCAME LEAVES CHAMBER DEFENSE COMMISSION

1. IN A ROUTINE, BIANNUAL CHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSION CHAIRMANSHIPS, THE ON. FALCO ACCAME WAS REPLACED AS PRESIDENT OF THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES DEFENSE COMMISSION BY HIS PSI COLLEAGUE, ON. PAOLO VITTORELLI. OF THE FOURTEEN STANDING COMMISSIONS, ONLY ONE OTHER BESIDES DEFENSE RECEIVED A NEW PRESIDENT. WHATEVER THE REASONS FOR THE OTHERS, ACCAME'S REPLACEMENT WAS DELIBERATE.

2. HIS DEPARTURE IS THE CAUSE OF SOME RELIEF IN THE MINISTRIES OF DEFENSE AND INDUSTRY. DURING HIS TENURE ACCAME MANAGED TO INFURIATE BOTH, AS WELL AS THE LEADERSHIP OF THE ITALIAN ARMED FORCES. HIS PARLIAMENTARY ENQUIRIES ALWAYS BARBED, HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS USUALLY COUCHED AS RHETORICAL QUESTIONS, HE HAD BECOME AN ADVERSARY AND A HINDRANCE TO ALL THREE.

3. HAVING MADE A BRILLIANT CAREER IN THE NAVY UNTIL HIS RESIGNATION UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE THEN CNO DI GIORGI, ACCAME KNEW MORE ABOUT DEFENSE AND THE ARMED FORCES THAN PROBABLY ANY OF HIS PREDECESSORS. BUT FOR HIS ERSTWHILE MILITARY COLLEAGUES HE REMAINED A RENEGADE.
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PAGE 02 ROME 14121 021102Z

ONE GENERAL STAFF OFFICER SAID RECENTLY THAT HE WISHED WHEN ACCAME WENT OFF TO HIS VACATION AT THE BEACH HE WOULD JUST KEEP ON GOING--RIGHT OUT TO SEA.

4. INCAPABLE OR UNWILLING TO CREATE THE RELATIONSHIP OF RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS CLIENTS IN THE MILITARY BUREAUCRACIES, ACCAME SAW HIMSELF AS A

CRUSADER AGAINST MILITARY INEFFICIENCY, COST OVERRUNS, ARMS SALES POLICY, NATO COSTS AND THE MILITARY SYSTEM OF JUSTICE, AND ALWAYS WITH AN EYE FIXED ON THE GRAND-STAND.

5. THE INITIATIVE FOR ACCAME'S REMOVAL CAME, WE HEAR, FROM MINISTER OF DEFENSE RUFFINI AND MINISTER OF INDUSTRY DONAT-CATTIN, WHO WE UNDERSTAND ASKED PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI TO REQUEST THE CHANGE. THE PSI, ITSELF UNHAPPY WITH SOME OF ACCAME'S PRESS SALLIES AND INTERESTED IN FILLING THE POSITION WITH SOMEONE MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE PARTY, ACCEDED. THE PSI ALSO NEEDED TO TAKE CARE OF VITTORELLI, WHO HAD JUST BEEN REMOVED AS EDITOR OF THE PARTY NEWSPAPER "AVANTI."

6. NEVERTHELESS, ACCAME'S VOICE ON DEFENSE ISSUES WILL STILL BE HEARD. HE HAS NOW BECOME THE PSI MAN-IN-QFZMFW# OF DEFENSE AFFAIRS, A NEW POSITION, ONE WE ARE TOLD WAS CREATED FOR HIM. HOLMES

NOTE BY OC/T: ROME 14121(#)AS RECEIVED.

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